

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A muffling apparatus connected to an intermediate portion of a feed water pipe adapted to send out water, flowing through a feed water passage therein, into storage water,

the improvement being characterized in that said muffling apparatus includes a tubular portion, connected in a downwardly extending state to an upstream side feed water pipe portion positioned on an upstream side of said muffling apparatus, of said feedwater pipe, said tubular portion having in the interior thereof a water supply passage communicating with said feed water pipe, and

a housing connected water-tightly to said upstream side feed water pipe portion and an upper section of said tubular portion, enclosing a lower section of said tubular portion therewith, connected water-tightly to a downstream side feed water pipe portion positioned on a downstream side of said muffling apparatus, of said feed water pipe, and capable of storing air existing in said feed water pipe in the interior, which is outside of said tubular portion, of said housing,

said tubular portion is provided in an upper section thereof with (an) air hole (s) made through a wall thereof and causing said water supply passage to communicate with the interior of said housing.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): A muffling apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said upstream side feed water pipe portion has an atmosphere-openable valve connected thereto.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): A muffling apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the inner diameter of said water supply passage is larger than that of said feed water passage.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A muffling apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said housing is connected to said feed water pipe so that at least a part of the interior of said housing is positioned lower than the level of said storage water.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A feed water apparatus provided with a feed water pipe adapted to send out water, which flows through a feed water passage therein, into storage water,

the improvement being characterized in that a muffling apparatus is connected to said feed water pipe,

said muffling apparatus includes a tubular portion, connected in a downwardly extending state to an upstream side feed water pipe portion positioned on an upstream side of said muffling apparatus, of said feed water pipe, said tubular portion having in the interior thereof a water supply passage communicating with that of said feed water pipe, and

a housing connected water-tightly to said upstream side feed water pipe portion and an upper section of said tubular portion, enclosing a lower section of said tubular portion therewith, connected water-tightly to a downstream side feed water pipe portion, positioned on a downstream side of said muffling apparatus, of said feed water pipe, and capable of storing air in said feed water pipe in the interior, which is outside of said tubular portion, of said housing,

said tubular portion is provided in an upper section thereof with (an) air hole (s) made through a wall thereof and causing said water supply passage to communicate with the interior of said housing.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A feed water apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said feed water pipe is a jet pipe of a Western style flush toilet stool.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A feed water apparatus connected to a jet port of a Western style flush toilet stool and adapted to send out water, flowing through a feed water passage therein, into storage water existing in said Western style flush toilet stool, comprising:

~~the improvement being characterized in that said feed water apparatus has a~~
downwardly extending feed water pipe adapted to pass the water downward therethrough;
and

a horizontal feed water pipe configured to be in fluid communication with the
downwardly extending feed water pipe and adapted to pass the water horizontally or
substantially horizontally therethrough, wherein

said downwardly extending feed water pipe has a cylindrical muffling portion which
is combined therewith in one body, is adapted to stall air that is about to pass therethrough
with the water owing to a larger inner diameter of said ~~feed water pipe~~ muffling portion, and
water passing through said muffling portion draws out the stalled air in the form of very small
bubbles ~~said air left in said downwardly extending feed water pipe,~~

said horizontal feed water pipe is provided with bellows ~~adapted to offset the~~
~~tolerance of said Western style flush toilet stool~~ which will stall air contained in the feed
water.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A feed water apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein
said feed water passage is formed by a tubular feed water pipe, ~~having said muffling portion~~

~~formed so that said feed water passage and said muffling portion are combined with each other in one body.~~

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A muffling apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the inner diameter of said water supply passage is larger than that of said feed water passage.